

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

*Memo
Chromo*

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		<i>[initials]</i>
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
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6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO		X		
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
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SUSPENSE _____
Date _____

Remarks

Executive Secretary

23 April 86
Date

3637 (10-81)

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

66- 1543/1

22 April 1986

Mr. John B. Jovich

STAT

Dear Mr. Jovich:

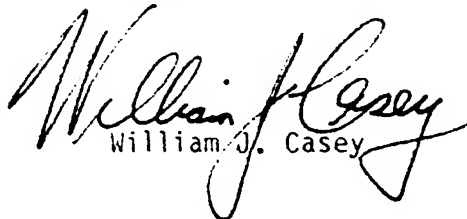
Thank you for your recent letter regarding my recollection of the day President Kennedy was killed.

I had just landed at Kennedy Airport in New York, flying in from Indianapolis, and as I walked through the terminal I learned that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas.

My reaction was one of great shock. Some minutes later, I learned that the President had died. I don't recall considering immediately the impact on the nation. I do recall that that evening my wife and I got together with half a dozen friends for dinner and had a very somber discussion wondering how this tragedy could have occurred, appreciating the fact that our Constitution gave us a sure mechanism for the swift transfer of authority in so tragic a circumstance, and assuring each other that our nation would carry on and meet its responsibilities.

I hope these recollections will assist in your interesting project.

Sincerely,


William J. Casey



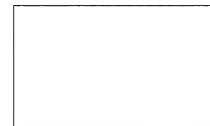
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.
703-351-7070

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

21 April 1986

DCI:

Don't know much about Jovich and whether you want to answer his questions. I'll be glad to decline for you if you wish.



George V. Lauder

STAT

Executive Registry

86-
1543x

JOHN B. JOVICH

STAT

April 3, 1986

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

As you know, 1988 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Without doubt, November 22, 1963, will forever remain one of the most sad and unforgettable dates in American history.

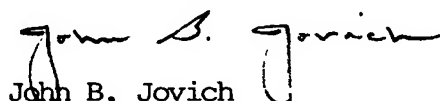
In the interest of contributing to both the memory of President Kennedy and the event itself, I have chosen the names of a select group of outstanding Americans in order to compile my upcoming book, November 22, 1963: How They Reacted. All of these prominent individuals, including yourself, are receiving letters from me seeking responses on how they reacted upon hearing the news of JFK's death. Some of these names were already famous twenty years ago, many were not. Nevertheless, this book should prove to be invaluable reading for all who appreciate history, both young and old.

Accordingly, it is my hope that you will personally respond to the following questions:

1. Where were you when you first heard the news of President Kennedy's shooting?
2. How did you react to the news?
3. On that date, what impact did you feel President Kennedy's death would have on the nation?

Thank you for your assistance in responding to this letter at your earliest convenience, as well as contributing to both my research and to history.

Sincerely,


John B. Jovich



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1983

Mr. John B. Jovich
Historian

Dear Mr. Jovich:

Thank you for your recent letter and request for my recollection of the day that President Kennedy was killed. The answers to your specific questions are:

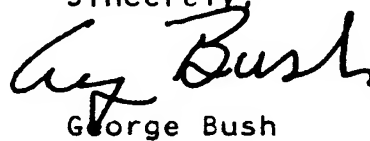
(1) I was in East Texas speaking at a Kiwanis Club luncheon when I heard of the Kennedy assassination. I was making a political speech as part of my campaign for the U.S. Senate.

(2) My reaction to the news was one of shock and disbelief.

(3) I don't recall that I considered immediately the impact on the nation. President Johnson moved so fast--properly so--to take over that there was never any question of continuity.

Best of luck on your project. It certainly sounds like it would be an interesting book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Bush".

George Bush



GERALD R. FORD

May 31, 1983

Dear Mr. Jovich:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 20, 1983, and the following are my responses.

We (Betty and I) were terribly shocked because we had become reasonably good friends of President Kennedy during our first term in the House of Representatives. JFK came to the House of Representatives in January 1947 and I was sworn in two years later in January 1949. In 1949 and 1950 our staff offices were across the corridor from each other. As a result, JFK and I got well acquainted.

I was especially saddened because a person I admired had met a tragic death and I was angry because this crime could occur in the United States.

On the date of the assassination there was no way I could accurately assess the impact of his assassination. I knew, of course, Vice President Johnson was an able dedicated and effective leader, but had no specific knowledge as to what his policies might be. Subjectively, I did thank our forefathers for providing a Constitution that gave our nation the capability to handle the transfer of authority in such a tragic circumstance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald R. Ford".

Mr. John B. Jovich



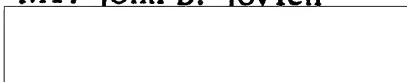
P.S. My wife, Betty, and I were driving in Washington, D.C., for an interview with an educational counselor for one of our children when we heard about the shooting of President Kennedy.

ABC News 1717 DeSales Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone 202 687-7373

David Brinkley,
Correspondent

March 6, 1986

Mr. John B. Jovich



Dear Mr. Jovich:

I was in my office at NBC in Washington preparing for that night's news program, the Huntley-Brinkley Report, when a young staff member ran in and said, "Kennedy's been shot."

My first reaction was to see exactly what had happened -- was he seriously hurt? Was he alive? And my second was to rush into the NBC studio and put the news on the air. Huntley and I then stayed on almost continuously for three days, around the clock.

I thought the impact on the American people, since it happened in a time of social disturbance and disorder, would be profound. And I believe it was.

Sincerely,

David Brinkley

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

January 19, 1984

Mr. John B. Jovich
Historian



Dear Mr. Jovich,

This is in response to your letter of
December 5.

When I first heard the news of
President Kennedy's assassination, I was in a
small pharmacy in Phoenix, Arizona, purchasing a
prescription for one of my children who was ill.
I was stunned by the news.

When I returned to my car, I wept because
of the sense of dismay that in the twentieth century
our nation's President was vulnerable to such an
attack. The damage was not only to a youthful
President and his family, but to all Americans who
cherish their free and open society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra O'Connor".

Sandra D. O'Connor

SO'C/lab



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

24 MAR 1986

Mr. John B. Jovich

Dear Mr. Jovich:

Thank you for your letter of March 3. The following are my answers to your questions.

1. I was in my law office in San Francisco when I heard the first report of the Kennedy assassination. My first reaction was that I could not believe he had actually been killed, because the first radio reports offered some hope.
2. My general reaction was one of shock and anger, and a feeling that the assassination attempt (as I then thought it was) was another example of our growing propensity to apply violence to deal with every issue.
3. I do not think I considered immediately the impact on the nation. However, that came later, particularly when I talked with my young son that night, who had been very deeply affected by watching the whole terrible tragedy unfold on television. His reaction seemed to me to mirror that of the state of shock into which everyone of all ages had been plunged. I had known President Kennedy in college, and this was a source of additional shock and personal horror.

Thank you again for writing. I hope the above answers will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Rumsfeld", written in a cursive style.